

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A plastic carafe having a top and a bottom, comprising:
  - a body portion having an enclosed base defined by a plurality of upstanding posts and a plurality of panels, each of the plurality of panels separating one of the plurality of posts from one another;
  - a neck portion having a blown finish at the top of the carafe defining a wide mouth; and
  - a shoulder portion transitioning each of said posts and said panels to said neck portion.
2. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the neck portion includes a plurality of inwardly extending grooves.
3. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the neck portion includes a plurality of outwardly extending grooves.
4. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the neck portion includes a combination of inwardly and outwardly extending grooves.
5. The plastic carafe according to claim 2, wherein each of the grooves are adapted to increase top load capacity, to provide an antiovalization function, and to provide vacuum absorption when the carafe has been filled, capped, and allowed to cool to ambient temperatures.
6. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the wide mouth is circular with an outside diameter of at least two inches.
7. The plastic carafe according to claim 6, wherein the outside diameter is about 2.5 inches.
8. The plastic carafe according to claim 6, wherein the outside diameter is greater than typical for a predetermined volume.

9. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the shoulder portion includes at least one ornamental design feature on an exterior surface of the carafe.

10. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the shoulder portion is free from any ornamental design features on an exterior surface of the carafe.

11. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion includes four upstanding posts and four panels.

12. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, the neck portion, and the shoulder portion together define an interior space of about 1.75 liters.

13. The plastic carafe according to claim 12, wherein the body portion, the neck portion, and the shoulder portion have a weight of about 65 grams.

14. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, neck portion, and shoulder portion are adapted for hot-fill applications.

15. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, neck portion, and shoulder portion are adapted for cold-fill applications.

16. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the body portion, neck portion, and shoulder portion comprise polyethylene terephthalate having a crystalline peak melting point of less than 235° C.

17. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of panels includes at least one vacuum panel.

18. The plastic carafe of claim 1, wherein the base is a push-up base.

19. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the finish has an undercut approximately at the top of the carafe to provide for a no drip finish.

20. The plastic carafe according to claim 19, wherein the undercut is adapted to provide the finish with increased stiffness, an antiovalization function, and an increased lightweighting ability.

21. The plastic carafe according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of panels are inwardly curved to increase handling of the carafe.

22. A method of making a blow-molded PET carafe container having an externally-threaded wide mouth finish for receiving a removable closure, comprising the steps of:

disposing a preform in a mold cavity having a surface with a container body region, a thread forming region superadjacent said body forming region, and a moil forming region superadjacent said thread forming region,

said container body region having a base section, a shoulder portion, and a neck portion, said base portion being generally square shaped and having a plurality of upstanding posts and a plurality of panels, each of the plurality of panels separating one of the plurality of posts from one another, said thread forming region defining the wide mouth;

distending said preform against said mold surface to form an intermediate container article having a moil portion superadjacent a threaded portion; and

severing said moil portion to produce a wide mouth carafe container.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein the wide mouth has an outer diameter of at least two inches.

24. The plastic carafe according to claim 22, wherein the wide mouth has an outside diameter that is greater than typical for a predetermined volume.

25. A system for containing liquids, comprising:

a plastic carafe having a top and a bottom, the carafe comprising  
a body portion having an enclosed base defined by a plurality of  
upstanding posts and a plurality of panels, each of the plurality of panels  
separating one of the plurality of posts from one another; a neck portion having a  
blown finish at the top of the carafe defining a wide mouth; and a shoulder portion  
transitioning each of said posts and said panels to said neck portion; and  
a closure adapted to engage the wide mouth and seal the carafe.

26. The system according to claim 25, wherein the wide mouth is circular with an  
outside diameter of at least two inches.

27. The plastic carafe according to claim 25, wherein the wide mouth is circular  
with an outside diameter that is greater than typical for a predetermined volume.

28. The system according to claim 25, wherein the body portion, the neck portion  
and the shoulder portion together define an interior space of about 1.75 liters.

29. The system according to claim 25, wherein the neck portion includes a  
plurality of inwardly extending grooves.

30. The system according to claim 25, wherein the closure is a first closure, the  
body includes a base at the bottom, and the base is contoured to engage at least a portion  
of a protrusion on a second closure.

31. The system according to claim 30, wherein the protrusion defines a peripheral  
ring.

32. The system according to claim 30, wherein the second closure further  
comprises an outer ring portion and an inner disc portion, the protrusion being formed on  
the outer ring portion.

33. The system according to claim 30, wherein the second closure is a press-fit lid.

34. The system according to claim 30, wherein the second closure is attachable to a second container.

35. The system according to claim 30, wherein the base of the container straddles the protrusion of the second closure.

36. The system according to claim 30, wherein the base further comprises:  
a standing surface having an outer portion and an inner portion, the outer portion merging with one of the posts and panels;  
a bottom wall defining a central concavity surrounded by the standing surface; and  
a stacking ring interposed between the inner portion of the standing surface and the bottom wall operative to engage the portion of the protrusion of the second closure.

37. The system according to claim 36, wherein the bottom wall of the base further comprises a plurality of external ribs having an external rib base disposed upwardly into the central concavity and an external rib apex disposed downwardly towards the stacking ring.

38. The system according to claim 30, wherein the first and second closures are identical.

39. The system according to claim 30, wherein the finish and the closure provide an oriented closure of the carafe and closure.

40. The system according to claim 39, wherein the oriented closure provides at least one feature of the closure that corresponds and aligns with at least one feature of the carafe.